

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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CONVENTION KEY NOTES.

Public sentiment will strongly second the hope of President Mathoniah Thomas that the educational convention may firmly grasp and fairly solve some of the greater questions of this vocation so closely identified with the general welfare.

The teachers' association had a very auspicious opening. Governor Spry generally is at his best when speaking on the training of the youth, and he made a favorable impression upon the large audience in his address of welcome, as did also the mayor, in behalf of this city. That the well-timed remarks were more than formal expressions of their personal interest in this great cause was perfectly evident from the careful selection of their subject matter and also from the emotion apparent in their delivery of it. When the highest elective officers thus identify themselves with the interests of the masses of the people in the better training of the youth, then the cause of education is certain of speedy and definite advancement.

"Education," said Dr. Brimhall, in his response to the Governor's hearty greetings, "is the right hand of the goddess of liberty; and we are here with the expectation of helping to hold that hand above the clutch of political partisanship."

In the same speaker's apt phrase, the teachers came to the convention with the expectation that "our awakening may be more perfect—that our vision may be clearer, to behold the transition taking place in the art of teaching."

The rapid trend from the text-book to the laboratory, from the telling to the finding out; from the artificial incentive to the inspiration of interest; from the external coercion to the internal awakening. He remarked that the schools are passing into an era when the lesson assignment shall be fewer pages and more problems; when the ability of the individual rather than outlines of instruction shall be the measure of school requirement.

The real key note to the proceedings of the convention was admirably struck by President Thomas in his opening address. He hoped that the present session of the association would be one devoted to the more general issue of preparing men and women to the idea of institution work—that is, of "sharpening the tools," so to speak, of the teacher's vocation.

Several larger matters he declared to be pressing for adjustment; of these the relations between trustees and teachers he regarded as paramount. His own conviction, which he believes the people generally will share, was that the trustee has merely general and not special supervision of the work of the school. He should not assume to direct the work of the teacher, who is the expert chosen for the special purpose of performing a certain piece of technical labor. Likewise, the trustee shall not seek to save the funds entrusted to his management, but wisely expend them. On the other hand, the teacher may well be expected to be an expert in his profession. "If the old adage is true," said Mr. Thomas, "if we are receiving the benefits of all past ages—if life now represents the sum of experiences which have passed—then with the increased responsibilities of this time, the father and the mother must also be brought into closer touch with the labors of the experts in the educational field."

Here again is a proposition of great moment, and one that should find ready acceptance and approval. The teacher's business is the true parent's deepest concern and is also the special care of the state. The education of the youth is the real work of mankind—the principal occupation of every truly civilized people.

It is of the utmost importance that this great work be well done, and that the teacher, above all other community helpers, have the right attitude toward his work. In pursuance of this idea and as a beginning to this end, the President stated that two great reports have been prepared to submit to this convention. One, on "The Physical Basis of Education," will undertake to show the necessity of a closer, more complete, and, at the same time, a more tender care of the sub-normal child than has heretofore been deemed possible or essential.

The other report is entitled "Industrial Education." On this the "News" has already dwelt at some length. For we need not, in this day and age, expect an educated and trained mind associated with an uneducated and untrained body. We speak of the dignity of labor; but labor can be dignified only when it is intelligent.

With this end in view, Dr. Tyler, internationally known as a biologist, has been selected to discuss the result of his researches. His addresses are expected to have a very close alliance with Dr. Cooke's, although the subjects are apparently different.

So far as the immediate convention is concerned Mr. Thomas believes that these ideas will be manifest throughout, and also that the proposed change in the organization of the convention will be adopted, since it tends to place the convention upon a more stable basis and gives permanency to the institution. By the practical administration of this program it is hoped that the Institute feature will be subordinated and the convention idea more strongly

emphasized. He further believes that the name "Educational Association" will be adopted as against the "Teachers' Association," because this proposed alliance of the teachers, trustees and parents must give to the teacher's profession greater dignity, and if possible a stronger alliance with the interested public.

Dr. Tyler's evening lecture was a veritable gem of unaffected candor and directness—a really luminous exposition of the gospel of the new education. That education is natural growth, that nature is the great teacher whose methods are to be followed and fostered, but not interfered with or thwarted, that the educational system which should seek to lop off any of the stages of child life in the futile effort to make adults out of children, would be like the zoologist who cut off the tail of the immature frog and thereby spilt forever the frog's power to jump when he grew up—these were the leading features of an address replete with sound learning, rich in experience, and charming in its very simplicity and naturalness.

The convention starts out well; may it rise to the full measure of its opportunities!

NO MORE WAR.

Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of Leland Stanford university has recently given expression to the view that there will be no great war, within many years to come, for the simple reason that the nations are armed and controlled by money lenders who will not advance money for war purposes.

This may be true as a general rule. But sometimes wars come as a result of causes that neither governments nor money lenders can control. That was the case with our war with Spain. It was entered upon under the spur of public sentiment. It was forced upon the government by public opinion. Sometimes wars come that way.

The only safe basis upon which to build the hope of permanent peace is the creation of a public sentiment against war and war expenditures. When that sentiment shall have become general, it should be possible to unite three or four of the largest civilized powers in a kind of "holy alliance" for the maintenance of the peace of the world. Such an alliance might be formed by Germany, Italy and France, which would be a good beginning to the restoration of the status of those three powers as it was before the treaty of Verdun, 843. The alliance would be joined, no doubt by England, the United States and Japan, and if these nations were united on the question of maintaining peace in the rest of the world, armies and navies could soon be put to better use than at present.

But all depends on the creation of a public sentiment, to back up the governments. At present the war sentiment is too strong, especially in the inexperienced youth. Boys like to fight. The dreams about "heroes" and "heroism" are vivid in their youthful minds. They are quick to respond to the call to arms, in times of danger. This sentiment must be changed through a new education, revolving around new ideals.

THE GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE.

The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine for January 1911 is out with a list of interesting articles, among which are: Biographical sketch of Chauncey Walker West, presiding bishop of Weber county from 1855 to 1870, with genealogy; The first installment of Col. Thomas L. Kane's lecture on the "Mormons" delivered before the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, in 1890; The Means for Genealogical Research in Scandinavia with pictures of the Provincial Archives of Viborg Denmark, and of the writer Jens Jensen, Scandinavian genealogist; The Beehive Coinage of Deseret, by Maria Young Douglas; Items from Early Days, being some interesting extracts from the news columns of Volume One of the Deseret News; There are book notices and other articles pertaining to genealogical matters, all of which should be of great interest to those engaged in genealogy and historical research.

The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine is the only one of its kind in this intermountain country; and as such it is pioneering the way, genealogically speaking. It is the organ of the Genealogical Society of Utah and is adding that society in arousing an interest among the Latter-day Saints, to search out their dead and make proper records, so that temple work may be done for them. The magazine is also helping the society to obtain a library which it is hoped, will become the largest of its kind in the world; and in all this laudable effort the publishers ought to have the support of the Latter-day Saints.

THE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the Utah Educational Association would be justified by two facts alone, if the meeting of this excellent body needed any justification. These two facts were alluded to by the president in his reference to some school boards throughout the country as unit and his statement that some teachers are entirely out of place in the schoolroom. The other fact is the statement of Dr. Tyler, of Amherst, that Eastern boys should go to Western colleges and that Western boys should go to Eastern colleges.

The Salt Lake Tribune, true to its policy of slandering Utah and belittling everything of which the State is proud, this morning announced in glaring, double-column headlines on its front page that President Thomas denounces Many Trustees and Teachers as Unit for their Positions." etc. If this was meant to convey the impression that the speaker denounced Utah school boards and teachers, and it is safe to conclude this was the intention of the paper, we need only say that he did nothing of the kind. Utah school boards and teachers, as a rule, are far above the average.

The Tribune did not venture to print the remarks of Gov. Spry, showing how many millions of dollars annually is spent by this State upon the public schools, nor would it dare to make actual comparisons with other and older States.

Anyone who has ever given any at-

tention to school matters knows that sometimes school boards are incompetent to manage the schools under their care; that they have neither the educational, nor the business ability required properly to discharge the duties of their office. They seem to be afraid of high standards and thoroughness, doubtless because they are beyond their attainments. This perhaps is natural; but this is not peculiar to any state, or any country. The remedy is the selection of able and broader-minded men for the position of school trustee.

And as to the matter of school teachers. As there are fagots and figments so there are school teachers and school trustees. There are incompetents in their ranks as there are incompetents in the ranks of all professions. There is much fast talk about the years of preparation, the hard study and the rigid discipline. Not all the years of their lives though they lived laborious day and night could make some teachers competent. It is hard to get rid of them, for principals shrink from recommending their dismissal, while school boards dislike to carry out the recommendation when made. Principals and boards alike need their backbone stiffened in this matter.

As to the truth uttered by Dr. Tyler, the East and the West are too much apart, too apt to hold each other in contempt. The "effete east" is quite as much of a myth as the "wild and woolly west" is. There is too much self-sufficiency in both sections, each has its virtues, each has its follies; but each is too much inclined to see only the follies of the other and to ignore, or at least minimize, its virtues. Dr. Tyler's suggestion would do much to remedy the regrettable state of affairs to the mutual benefit of each section. If the east can go to the west, learn of its ways and be wise, the west can go to the east and do the same. Each needs some of the conceit taken out of it; and the sooner this is done the better it will be.

The star aviator makes his flight by night.

Exchange of Christmas presents is no robbery.

The spiral glide is the Dutch roll of the aviator.

It is an awful feeling to feel that you have been fooled.

The greatest amusement hall in the country is the Hall of Fame.

A poor actor (there are such) can perform a painful operation.

A cynic is a sinner who commits no sin, for which he can be punished.

If Woodrow Wilson had an Ananias club he would put James Smith, Jr., in it.

If prices have gone down they have gone down where nobody can find them.

The office sought Governor-elect Dix and now the office-seekers are seeking him.

Political economy—not appropriating public funds to satisfy every demand made on them.

As it takes all sorts of people to make a world so it takes all sorts of people to make humanity.

There are no more honest people in the State than those who live in Carbon county but they have their Price.

It would seem that about the only way to crush the Mexican insurrection is to run the "steam roller" over it.

The interstate commerce commission fixes interstate railroad rates when called upon but it itself cannot be "fixed."

Pullman car porters have met in Chicago and formed a union. It must be a sort of B.H.H. and Black George arrangement.

It begins to look as though the Cubans would have to change their national air to "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

Frank Getch is beginning to listen to the call of the mat, heed it not, for it is but the voice of the tempter that would lure you to destruction.

Aviator Arch Hoxsey having attained an altitude of 11,474 feet and having returned to earth safe and sound, may be considered as an authority on the descent of man.

An Oakland, Cal., woman swallowed her false teeth and they killed her. This shows that hard as it is to swallow one's false words it is far better than to swallow one's false teeth.

A nervous fire insurance inspector says that New York is in danger of a greater fire than that which destroyed San Francisco. According to the war alarmists, she is in much greater danger of being destroyed by a foreign fleet.

Replying to Governor-elect Wilson's statement, ex-Senator James Smith, Jr., says that "it appears over his signature, but the reasoning is not his," in other words, he claims that while the voice is Jacob's voice, the hands are the hands of Esau.

Burke said you could not indict a whole people. But down in Adams county, Ohio, nearly eight hundred men have been indicted for participation in wholesale election frauds, while several hundred have pleaded guilty and only two not guilty. Or Burke's dictum it may be said, "We have changed all that."

COLONIAL HOUSEKEEPING MYTH.

Boston Transcript.
 Myths and legends inevitably shivered in the bracing atmosphere of the University of Wisconsin, an air most congenial to progressivism, freedom of thought and eras—while, though a trying, seems a natural combination—and one of our most cherished traditions, having fallen under the attentive notice of Miss Caroline E. MacGill, in-

structor in economics, is now backed into a corner and left shrieking for help. Miss MacGill's object of attack is the accepted idea that our ancestors were infinitely more capable housewives than the women of the present. The former reared large families, cooked, washed, spun, did countless tasks of which invention has relieved their descendants, and figure in the domestic history as "seven feet tall, with arms of steel and nerves of caoutchouc, head stuffed with clockwork and feet of iron." Probably they had the initial advantage of physical strength, since in their day none but the toughest could survive; yet when we wonder how even their muscles and their "faculty" could be equal to the mighty achievements attributed to them when we question "how they did it," Miss MacGill's reply is prompt and unsparing. They never did, she says. The demonstration has many plausible and some convincing terms. It bases upon the thesis that the myth of the Colonial housewife merges the deeds of many into one personality, as other hero-tales have grown. There were large families in the earlier time, and boys and girls who escaped being tucked away under slate headstones began to work about as soon as they progressed to "spoon-victuals." In the average household there were unmarried sisters and cousins and aunts who slaved for their "keep," or there were neighbors' daughters who, not degrading thereby from their social standing, joined the family as "help," or there were "bound girls." Moreover—this being a fact known to everyone whose ancestry runs back to the roots of New England—pioneers who indulged in an endless continuity of wives were not uncommon.

FAST STEAMSHIP RUNS.

New York Evening Sun.
 The special efforts which are making to send the Mauretania from England to America and back again in prodigiously quick time have naturally raised a good deal of interest not only among the officers of steamship companies but in the mind of the general public, which has grown used to urging quicker and quicker time on all public conveyances, by land and sea, and continually looks for shorter headway and more speed. Among many incidents of the Mauretania's record-breaking task, a single instance is sufficiently remarkable. One of her sister ships, the Baltic, left Liverpool on Dec. 10, 2-20 p.m., two hours ahead of the Mauretania's start toward New York, arrived here yesterday morning, after having been passed three times by the faster, swifter ship. The Mauretania had overtaken the Baltic before the latter had reached Queenstown. But the Baltic left that port before the Mauretania, and the latter again overtook her at sea. Then the Mauretania sped on, arriving here on Friday morning, left this port at 6 p.m. on Saturday, and on Sunday morning, steaming east, met the incoming Baltic and passed her again. That is what, in yachting lingo, is sometimes called sailing all around another boat.

THE FAIRHOUSE OF LIGNY.

Westminster Gazette.
 The historic farmhouse of Ligny, where Napoleon won his very last battle against Blucher, two days before his final defeat at Waterloo, has been purchased at a heavy price by a local Catholic priest. The bullet-riddled building was about to be demolished when the Ligny cure intervened to rescue it from disappearance.

JUST FOR FUN

"Have you ever noticed how a bum actor can get laughter and applause by using a cuss word?"

"Oh, yes. What's the reason?"

"I've found out. I think. The audience has been wanting to swear, but is too polite."—Toledo Blade.

"Papa, is there really a Santa Claus?"

"Of course there is, my dear?"

"How do you know?"

"Hm—well—don't I have to pay his bills?"—Detroit Free Press.

Thunder and Lightning.

A bishop came to visit a church where a colored minister was presiding. Loudly and with much gesticulation the preacher proclaimed salvation. When he had finished he approached the bishop and asked how he liked the sermon.

"The bishop answered: 'Why, pretty well; but don't you think you spoke too loud?'"

"Well," said the preacher, "it's this way; when I lack in lightning I tries to make up in thunder."—Ladies Home Journal.

Another Needed Reform.

Government inspectors in Kansas City seized forty-two cases of eggs recently which were found to contain 150,000,000 bacteria to the cubic centimeter. There really ought to be a law prohibiting centimeters—they're always crowded with germs.—Kansas City Times.

Senator's Wife a Housekeeper.

The wife of a western senator was sent a bill for a pint of cream, and the charge on it was \$1.15. She went to see the dairyman and made an indignant protest against the size of the bill. "Well, you see," he explained, "that was a particular brand of cream."

"Oh," she said, "I thought you were going to say you had sold me the whole cow."—Exchange.

Hard for Humorists.

"I see they've got a machine for sewing on buttons now," said the humorist's wife.

"That's just my luck," said the humorist. "The first thing you say, somebody will invent a machine for finding lost collar-buttons and my business will be ruined."—Yonkers Statesman.

Rough on George.

There was a sound of revelry by night, for gathered in the village hall were Dullemeere's beauty and chivalry, including refreshments, four and six-pence.

Chubbins, the green grocer, as a knight in armour, was hardly a success in the mazy waltz, nor did he show to great advantage in the set dances, but when it came to supper time he started to do himself right proudly.

"Try some more of this trifle, most worthy knight," urged Queen Elizabeth who presided over that delicacy. Chubbins shook his head sadly. "Now see what you've been and done," he hissed at Mrs. Chubbins, a somewhat full-blown Dresden shepherdess. "What's amiss now, George?" inquired the lady.

"Everything's amiss," snorted the irate knight. "You must needs pick me out a git-up when nobody couldn't dance in and when it comes to what might have been a chance to get my name's worth, ain't got a screw-driver to unbutton my blessed weskit."—Tit-Bits.

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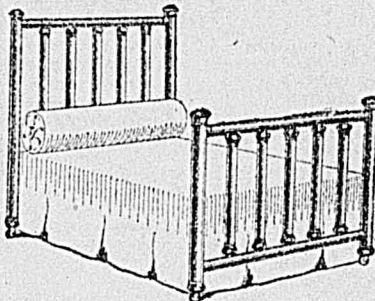
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